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LB 15

SENATOR KILGARIN: Yes, Senator Goll, I don't want to be presumptuous and try to summarize what their opposition was but I will certainly attempt to do so, and if I am incorrect, I hope they will correct me. As I understood it from their testimony at the hearing, they were once again pointing out the pension plan and that they thought it was a conflict of interest. And I pointed out to them that by them being there representing their Board of Directors, that was a conflict of interest. But that was their point, Senator Goll.

SENATOR GOLL: That was their only concern.

SENATOR KILGARIN: And my point is that the voters can decide that.

SENATOR GOLL: Now as I understand it this legislation will affect not only MUD, OPPD but all REAs throughout the state, is that correct?

SENATOR KILGARIN: It will affect only public power districts. Now MUD isn't a public power district.

SENATOR GOLL: Oh, okay.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chris Abboud.

SENATOR ABBODD: Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill. The State of Nebraska is somewhat unique in that it allows...we have totally public power in comparison to other states across the nation. The only...what that means, Senators, you are in a situation where you don't have any shareholders such as a private utility company and so as a result they don't have any duty to shareholders. This situation which this bill is changing, the conflict of interest law, could result in a situation where you have employees resigning and then being placed in running for this position. I feel that the public power, the electricity that we do have in this state is fairly low, and this would only result in increased utility costs, in increased electrical costs because you would result in increased salaries that would be paid to employees.

PRESIDENT: Is there further discussion? The Chair recognizes Senator Doyle.

SENATOR DOYLE: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Pirsch asked Senator Kilgarin what was her intent originally only to apply to retirees in committee and that is correct that it was as I understood it. I suggested in